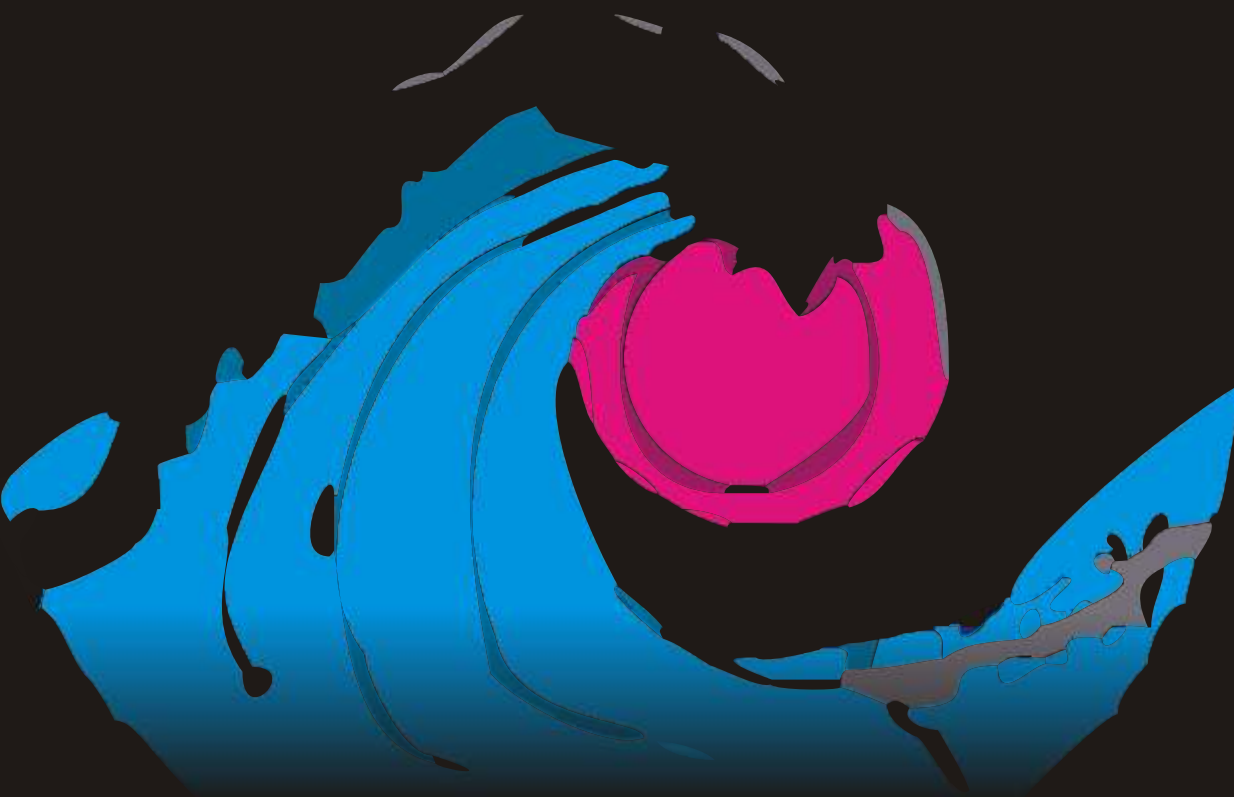


MICHAL LEBL
RICHARD A. HOUGHTEN

Peptides

THE WAVE OF THE FUTURE



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Peptides

The Wave of the Future

Proceedings of the Second International
and the Seventeenth American
Peptide Symposium

Edited by

Michal Lebl

and

Richard A. Houghten

American Peptide Society

Peptides: The Wave of the Future

Proceedings of the Second International and the
Seventeenth American Peptide Symposium
June 9–14, 2001, San Diego, California, U.S.A.

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Preface

The Second International Peptide Symposium continued the tradition of international meetings of peptide scientists started by Josef Rudinger in 1958 in Prague, Czech Republic. It was held under the auspices of the Seventeenth American Peptide Symposium at the Town and Country Resort in San Diego, California from June 9 to June 15. In addition to the main Symposium, we were honored to have the Merrifield Satellite Symposium, honoring Bruce Merrifield's accomplishments on his 80th birthday.

Over 1,250 participants from around the world attended the lectures, posters and exhibits. Reflecting the international nature of the Symposium, there were participants from 37 countries in attendance (Table 1, Figure 1). In addition to the 75 plenary lectures, there were over 575 poster presentations, and 70 commercial exhibits as well as booths from the American, Australian, Chinese, European, and Japanese Peptide Societies.

In order to afford an opportunity for the younger members of our field to present their work to the attendees, there were 15 lectures in the Young Investigator's Mini-Symposium, organized by Carrie Haskell-Luevano. The quality of the lectures in this section is proven by the fact that these papers are published in this proceedings volume in the middle of papers submitted by more senior scientists, and there is no way to find out who was the young investigator and who was not.

As is true for the Chairs of any scientific meeting, our intent was to have the best possible science presented, while also being able to relax and thoroughly enjoy the so-

Table 1. IPS/APS Country Representation.

USA	708	Taiwan	6
Japan	69	India	6
Canada	58	Spain	4
Germany	57	Poland	3
Switzerland	34	Norway	3
Italy	32	Latvia	3
Denmark	32	England	3
Korea	29	Czech Republic	3
France	28	Scotland	2
UK	26	Portugal	2
China	20	Argentina	2
Sweden	19	Slovenia	1
Australia	19	Singapore	1
Hungary	15	Saudi Arabia	1
Israel	14	Ireland	1
Netherlands	13	Greece	1
Russia	12	Finland	1
Belgium	11	Croatia	1
Brazil	8		

cial and local attractions. In the beautifully cooperative San Diego sun, the attendees were able to enjoy both.

The scientific program covered almost every aspect of our ever-broadening field. Topics covered during the week encompassed synthetic methods, combinatorial approaches, delivery methodologies, therapeutics, modeling and design, solid phase approaches, receptor specific interactions, biomaterials, immunology, as well as genomics and bio-informatics. The “Biologically active peptides” category was chosen as the First Preference by almost 15% of all submitting authors. Two of the many high points in the week’s scientific program were Garland Marshall’s Merrifield award lecture entitled “From Merrifield to MetaPhore: A Random Walk with Serendipity” and the plenary lecture by Craig Venter of Celera entitled “Genomics: From Microbes to Man.”

This was the first American Peptide Symposium in which abstracts, manuscripts, and galley proofs were submitted and communicated exclusively electronically. Even though it was obviously the first contact with the computer submission for several peptide scientists, the manuscripts were successfully submitted after an average of 1.3 attempts. The major problem was the compatibility of the versions of text processors and Internet browsers. We would like to express our thanks to the authors who followed instructions for the preparation of the manuscript. We thank the rest of the authors as well, even though they made our life a little more complicated. It was very amusing to find out how many scientists named their manuscript file 17thaps.doc, in a firm belief that their name is so unique that it would stand out in the middle of hundreds of files named, as we suggested, for example SmithAB.doc. We would have never guessed that we would get back the files containing the unchanged text of the template (“...text text text text...”) under the different file name. Amusing were also the attempts to squeeze four pages of text on the two pages of the template by very creative shrinking of the font size and figures. However, we believe that our (authors’ and editors’) pains in preparation of this proceedings volume were good for learning how to produce the next proceedings in the future. Our goal was to publish the book in the year of the symposium. We have shown not only that it is achievable, but also that it is theoretically possible to have the proceedings book ready in two months after the symposium. The only requirement is the willingness of the authors to cooperate in this effort. We would like to express our thanks to people who helped us most in editing the book, Jutta Eichler, Jon Appel, and Eileen Weiler. And, last but not least, it was

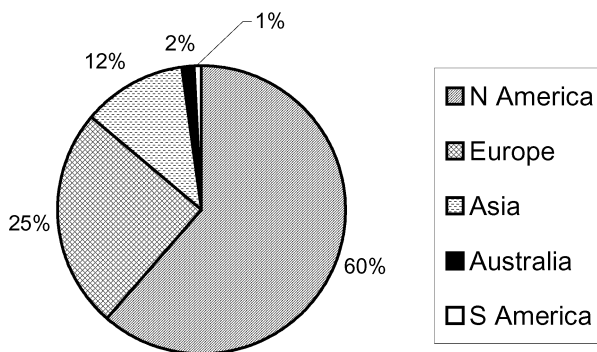


Fig. 1. Participants by Continent – TOTAL: 1,248.

the effort of Bohumir Valter, in the Prague office, which made the publication of this book in the year 2001 possible.

This is also the first symposium in which the proceedings are being published by the American Peptide Society. The significance and benefits of the APS becoming its own scientific publisher will become evident in the coming years. In addition, this is the first proceedings to be available electronically, as well as in hard copy. The symposium home page is now and will be available in the coming years (www.5z.com/aps). You will always be able to come back to the abstract book, addresses of participants, pictures from the symposium, collection of Merrifield resin bead memorials (see for example Figure 2), and the electronic version of proceedings book.

Another first in this symposium was the award for the best joke delivered in the scientific lecture. The success of the joke delivery was evaluated by the “joke committee” (the members of the committee do not wish to be named here) and by the intensity of the audience response, evaluated by the audio-visual crew of AudioVisual Reality, Inc., led by Kurt Dommers (thanks for the excellent AV support). The award was given to Sandor Lovas, for his beer mug illustration of protein folding.

The Symposium Chairs tried to set precedence and minimize the length of “official talks” at the opening and closing the symposium. Introductory talks took 13.5 minutes and the closing ceremony was over in 42 minutes, maximizing thus the time for scientific lectures in the first case and the dance party in the second case.

To the members of the Program Committee who assisted in organizing the scientific program, your timely hard work was greatly appreciated. We are all grateful to the Session Chair Pairs who kept the speakers to their allotted times and prompted stimulating discussions. Very special thanks to Donna Freher-Lyons, Symposium Coordinator, for her brilliant coordination efforts and Santa M. Pecoraro, Database Management, for her skillful assistance regarding the abstract and manuscript submissions.

The 18th American Peptide Society Symposium will be held on July 19–23, 2003 at the Boston Marriott Copley Place in Boston, Massachusetts and will be chaired by Dr. Tomi Sawyer. For more information, contact PCMI at (858) 565-9921.

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Fig. 2. “Merrifield resin bead memorial” on Prospect Street in San Diego. (If you happen to have a similar picture, you are invited to submit it to the collection available on symposium web site, www.5z.com/aps.)